

- European Association for the Study of Religions
- Italian Society for the History of Religions
- University of Messina
- Department for the Study of Late Antiquity, Middle Age and Humanism

## **Religion in the History of European Culture**

14 to 17 September 2009, University of Messina, Italy

### **Call for Conference Papers**

On behalf of the Società Italiana di Storia delle Religioni (SISR), we are pleased to invite you to take part in the 9<sup>th</sup> EASR and IAHR Special Conference, due to be held in Messina from 14 to 17 September. The chosen theme, **Religion in the History of European Culture**, aims to encourage debate on the role played by the religious phenomenon in the long and diversified cultural history of Europe. At the same time – in line with the aims of the EASR – the intention is to emphasise how the formation and development of the history of religions has been specifically influenced by its “European identity”. In terms of comparative methodology and its definition of the subject “religion”, the discipline is in fact the result of academic movements which arose and developed within the environment of European culture in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, although with significant forerunners in previous centuries and in the Greek and Roman world.

Since 2009 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Raffaele Pettazzoni, founder of the SISR, and co-founder and President of the IAHR, a section of the Conference will be dedicated to assessing his scholarship and role in the history of the discipline.

### **Suggested topics to which panels and papers may relate**

1. “Religious Europe” in the Mediterranean context: between Asia and Africa. Contacts and influences

a) Antiquity and Late Antiquity

b) the Middle Ages

c) the Modern Age

d) the Contemporary Age

2. The history of the “History of Religions”

a) A European “invention”?

b) Reflections on the religious phenomenon and theories of culture

c) Methodologies and theories on the origin and nature of religion: the contribution of European culture and the current scientific debate

3. Meeting and conflicts between peoples and cultures; the role of religions in the European scenario. From Antiquity to the present day

4. Europe: centre for the “diffusion” of religious traditions and pole of “attraction”. From Antiquity to the present day

5. The role and contribution of a “European Association for the Study of Religions” (EASR) within the world scenario of the IAHR: reflections and observations on a decade of experience

## **6. Raffaele Pettazzoni: an Italian scholar in the international context of the IAHR**

Proposals for papers and panels may be submitted via the online registration form.

We encourage participants to submit their proposal as early as possible to the Conference Secretary:

Mail: [easr@09unime.it](mailto:easr@09unime.it)

**The deadline for the submission of communications and panels is March 2009.**

**The deadline for the submission of abstracts is 15 May 2009.**

**The Conference languages are: Italian, English, French, German, Spanish.**

**The official language for conference information and for the Keynotes is English.**

**Each Keynote will be given 45 minutes.**

**Each paper will be given 20 minutes with 10 minutes' discussion.**

Those scholars who wish to organise a panel should give their e-mail address to the Conference Secretary. For more information see the website of the Conference:

Web: <http://ww2.unime.it/easr09/eng/index.html>

### **Conference fees :**

#### **Standard fee Student fee**

**Before 30 April 2009 80 EUR 40 EUR**

**Before 30 June 2009 90 EUR 45 EUR**

**In cash at Conference desk 100 EUR 50 EUR**

**Keynote Speakers:**

Prof. Montserrat Abumalham (University Complutense, Madrid); Maya Burger (University of Lausanne); Giovanni Filoramo (University of Torino); Armin W. Geertz (University of Aarhus); Tim Jensen (University of Southern Denmark); Kim Knott (University of Leeds); Enrico Montanari (University of Roma “La Sapienza”); John Riepke (University of Erfurt)

We look forward to seeing you in Messina,

Best regards,

On behalf of the Italian Society for the History of Religions:

President, Vice President and Secretary

Prof. Gherardo Gnoli, Prof. Giulia Sfameni Gasparro

**Conference Organiser:**

Prof. Giulia Sfameni Gasparro – [gasparro@unime.it](mailto:gasparro@unime.it)

**Organizing Committee and Secretary**

Email: [easr09@unime.it](mailto:easr09@unime.it)

phone: +39 090 3503212

fax: +39 090 3503931

Prof. Concetta Giuffrè Scibona

Prof. Cesare Magazzù

Prof. Maria Antonietta Barbara

Dr. Concetta Aloe Spada

Dr. Augusto Cosentino – [acosentino@unime.it](mailto:acosentino@unime.it) - +39 320 0562731

Dr. Mariangela Monaca